

SISTER MARY JO MIKE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Mary Jo Mike, named 2015 Principal of the Year by the National Catholic Educational Association.

Sr. Mary Jo, of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, has devoted more than 40 years to Catholic education and has led Nativ-ity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral Parish elementary school for the past 23 years, the longest serving principal in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi.

Sister Mary Jo soars beyond the call of duty, deeply involving herself in the life and ministry of her parish, school, local community, and the culture of the Gulf Coast, and encourages others to do the same. From their daily arrival to their departure, Sr. Mary Jo is dynamically present in the lives of her students' school setting. She inspires teachers to identify and nurture each student's strengths and to discover ways to help them overcome their challenges. Her ministry and leadership encompasses the healthy development of the whole student—mind, body, and soul.

True to her calling, Sister Mary Jo seeks and claims opportunities to improve life for those around her. Under her leadership, Nativ-ity BVM now offers a broad range of programs for students of any ability, even including a Robotics team and a Lego® club. Clearly loved and highly respected by all, Sr. Mary Jo runs a tight ship in an environment of love, prayerfulness, justice, and peace. She is an example of always doing one's best and exceeding expectations in herself, her faculty, her students, and her community, believing that when children see their teachers and leaders doing their best, they, in turn, are inspired to do their best, too.

I proudly congratulate Sister Mary Jo Mike as the 2015 NCEA Principal of the Year.

IN HONOR OF PETE PASQUALE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a health care leader from Connecticut, Pete Pasquale, who will be retiring in July after 42 years with McKesson Corporation.

During his tenure with McKesson, the world's largest healthcare services company, Pete has capably led the many teams he developed in a career spanning roles from District Sales Manager in Albany, New York to Senior Vice President for the Northeast Region in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, with overall responsibility for McKesson's pharmaceutical sales and distribution activity in the Northeast market. McKesson's involvement in nearly every health care sector provided Pete with a unique understanding of health care policy and a platform to inform policymakers. I had the opportunity to visit McKesson's Rocky Hill offices last summer, where I was impressed by the incredible efficiency of McKesson's op-

erations and the high morale of employees there who benefited from Pete's leadership.

When Pete began his career with McKesson as a Sales Trainee in 1973, many pharmaceutical products were shipped to pharmacies directly by the manufacturers, and Pete and his wife Deb spent every Sunday afternoon calling customers to take their orders. Pete would then bundle the orders by hand and personally drop off the shipments at the post office for Monday deliveries. Pharmaceutical deliveries may have evolved since then, but Pete's values of focusing each day on customers and patients have inspired his friends and coworkers throughout his career.

Pete and his wife Deb raised three kids—Timmy, Gina and Cara, together every step of the way. And, not surprisingly, Pete has saved his best role for last—that of Pop. He is the proud grandfather to Stella, Pete, Gaetana, and Leo, who always bring a smile to his face.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Pete Pasquale for his outstanding career in health care, and I personally want to thank Pete for his 42 years of dedication, leadership and commitment to patients, our community and our country. I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

**HONORING EILEEN PACKER ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIRE-
MENT AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF-
FICER OF THE HEALTH ASSES-
SMENT RESOURCE CENTER**

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Eileen Packer on her retirement after 9 years of service as the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC).

During her tenure, Ms. Packer was instrumental in founding HARC and seeking the organization's nonprofit designation. She designed the organization's triennial needs assessment and was critical to building strong support for the organization across the community.

As a physician and a native of the Coachella Valley, I commend Ms. Packer's work to assess the health and wellness of Coachella Valley residents and improve access to critical health care services. To date, the data from these surveys has helped generate over \$7.1 million in funds for much-needed programs and services to improve the wellbeing of residents in our community.

As a Registered Dietitian and Certified Association Executive, Ms. Packer worked in the Los Angeles area as Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Tarzana Regional Medical Center. After 11 years there, she led as CEO of the 7,000-member California Dietetic Association located in Los Angeles.

As a volunteer, Ms. Packer currently serves on the Riverside County Office on Aging Advisory Council and is a member of the Gilda's Club Medical Resource Council. Previously, she served as President of the Southern California Society of Association Executives.

Mr. Speaker, Eileen's dedication to public service and health education is a true testa-

ment to her great work ethic and leadership. On behalf of all those who have benefited from HARC, the medical community and the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate Eileen for her exceptional commitment. I wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.

**CONGRATULATING AND HONORING
LONG LIFE SOCIAL ACTIVIST
MARIAN LUPU**

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor my dear friend Marian Lupu; a visionary and warrior in the fight for fairness and social justice. Marian has never ignored the plight and needs of others. We celebrate her 90th birthday and relish in her work. I want to submit a profile of Ms. Marian Lupu that appeared in the Arizona Jewish Post, written by Shelia Wilenskey; this, better than I, describes a life worth honor.

Marian Lupu, now 89, founded the Pima Council on Aging in 1965. She didn't retire as executive director until 2006, when she was 82. "If you love what you're doing, why not?" Lupu asked the AJP. A pioneer in her field, Lupu took one of the first courses ever taught on aging when she was a graduate student at the University of Chicago. "I soon decided," she says, "that all the research in the world wasn't going to help the aging population unless it provided services and advocacy."

In her elder years, Lupu practices what she preached. "The biggest thing I've learned is to use the supports I have," she says. "I take all the support I can get, use a walker or a cane, without having the resistance of many older people who drive and get into accidents or who fall down because they want to be independent."

Lupu started her career as a student working at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and later supervised the first study on aging Spanish-American War veterans. Her 1948 marriage to Charles Lupu, Ph.D., eventually brought the couple to Tucson in 1965, when he landed a job at the Tucson Medical Center. She started the Tucson Council on Aging as a volunteer. The agency later became the Pima Council on Aging.

"I recognized there were no services for the aging population here, whether they were Jewish or not. I learned a great deal," says Lupu, from Betty Brook, who was instrumental, with her husband, in helping to build Tucson's Jewish community, including Jewish Family & Children's Services and Dr. Ted Koff, the first director of Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging.

"Family counseling is very much a concern to the Jewish community," says Lupu, who grew up in "a very Orthodox family, and in a very kosher environment in Elmwood Park, Ill, a suburb of Chicago. Our Shabbos goy was our next-door neighbor. It was a very Italian neighborhood. In order to have services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we brought in a rabbinical student and rented a storefront."

Back in 1929, she recalls, "there was no telephone in the shul so a messenger would come get the Jewish doctor for an emergency. We had to wait till he returned for a minyan."